

Welcome to the May 2015 "U.S. Citizens in Romania" Newsletter!



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Please visit our new Blog "U.S. Citizens in Romania" at <http://blogs.usembassy.gov/bucharest/>

On This Issue:

1. ADOPTION PROCESS IN ROMANIA

2. INFORMATION CORNER

✚ **[Read previous newsletters here.](#)**

✚ **[Embassy Messages and Travel Alerts are here.](#)**

✚ Send all email inquiries to Bucharest, American Citizen Services
ACSBucharest@state.gov

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1. Adoption Process in Romania

Hague Convention Information

Romania is party to the *Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* (Hague Adoption Convention). Therefore, adoptions between Romania and the United States are governed by the requirements of the Convention and the laws and regulations implementing the Convention in both the United States and Romania. The amended Romanian adoption law went into effect on April 7, 2012. The new law allows for intercountry adoptions of Romanian children by relatives up to the fourth degree of kinship (up to first cousins) and Romanian citizens who are habitually resident abroad. Romania also considers an adoption by the spouse of the child's birth parent an intercountry adoption and may not permit U.S. citizen step-parents to complete a domestic adoption in Romania. However, under U.S. law, a step-parent adoption (which does not terminate the existing parent-child relationship with both birth parents) is not an intercountry adoption subject to the Convention, and the Convention process does not apply. Instead the child might qualify as a "step-child" under U.S. immigration law. For more information on how to file an immigrant visa petition for a step-child, please visit uscis.gov.

Under the new law, prospective adoptive parents are required to finalize their adoption in Romania (Full article at <http://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country/romania.html>)

WARNING: The consular officer will send a letter (referred to as an "Article 5 Letter") to the Romanian Office for Adoptions in any intercountry adoption involving U.S. citizen parents and a child from Romania where all Convention requirements are met and the consular officer determines that the child appears eligible to immigrate to the United States. This letter will inform the Romanian Office for Adoptions that the parents are eligible and suited to adopt, that all indications are that the child may enter and reside permanently in the

United States, and that the U.S. Central Authority agrees the adoption may proceed.

Do not attempt to adopt or obtain custody of a child in Romania before a U.S. consular officer issues the Article 5 Letter in any adoption case.

Remember: The consular officer will make a final decision about a child's eligibility for an immigrant visa later in the adoption process.

THE PROCESS:

Because Romania is party to the Hague Adoption Convention, adopting from Romania must follow a specific process designed to meet the Convention's requirements. A brief summary of the Convention adoption process is given below. You must complete these steps in the following order so that your adoption meets all necessary legal requirements. Adoptions completed out of order may result in the child not being eligible for an immigrant visa to the United States.

1. Choose a U.S. accredited or approved adoption service provider.
2. Apply to USCIS to be found eligible to adopt.
3. Be matched with a child by authorities in Romania.
4. Apply to USCIS for the child to be found eligible for immigration to the United States and receive U.S. agreement to proceed with the adoption.
5. Adopt a child in Romania.
6. Obtain a U.S. immigrant visa for your child and bring your child home.

Contact Information

Embassy of the United States of America

4-6, Dr. Liviu Librescu Blvd.

District 1, Bucharest

015118 Romania

Tel: (+40) 21 200-3300

Fax: (+40) 21 200-3442

Main Embassy website <http://romania.usembassy.gov/>

Consulate of the United States of America

4-6, Dr. Liviu Librescu Blvd.

District 1, Bucharest

015118 Romania

Tel: (+40) 21 270-6000

Fax: (+40) 21 200-3505

E-mail Visas: VisasBucharest@state.gov

E-mail American Citizens: acsbucharest@state.gov

Consular Section

Romanian Adoption Authority

National Authority for the Protection of the Child's Rights (Autoritatea Nationala pentru Protectia Drepturilor Copilului si Adoptie) Ministry of Labor, Family, Social Protection and Elderly Persons (Ministerul Muncii, Familiei, Protectiei Sociale si Persoanelor Varstnice) Bd. Gral. Ghe. Magheru nr. 7 Sector 1

Bucharest 010322, Romania

Tel: +40213100789; Fax: +40213127474

E-mail: secretariat@adoptiromania.ro or office@anpfdc.ro

Internet: www.copii.ro

Contact person: Andreea Dinica,

Email: andreea.dinica@adoptiromania.ro

Embassy of Romania

1607 23rd Street NW

Washington, DC 20008

Tel: 202-332-4846, 4848, 4851, 4852, 2879; 202-232-4747

Fax: 202-232-4748

Email: consular@roembus.org

Internet: <http://washington.mae.ro/en>

Note: Romania also has consulates in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

Office of Children's Issues

U.S. Department of State

CA/OCS/CI

SA-17, 9th Floor

Washington, DC 20522-1709

Tel: 1-888-407-4747

Email: AdoptionUSCA@state.gov

Internet: adoption.state.gov

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

For questions about immigration procedures:

National Customer Service Center (NCSC)

Tel: 1-800-375-5283 (TTY 1-800-767-1833)

Internet: uscis.gov

For questions about filing a Form I-800A or I-800 petition:

National Benefits Center

Tel: 1-877-424-8374 (toll free); 1-816-251-2770 (local)

Email: NBC.Adoptions@DHS.gov

Notice: Agency Authorization Required by Romanian Law

The Romanian Office for Adoptions (the Office) reported to the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest that it will allow private non-profit organizations accredited in the foreign receiving country to transmit documents in intercountry adoption procedures provided that they are also authorized by the Office. U.S. accredited agencies that would like to work on behalf of U.S. prospective adoptive parents adopting children from Romania should submit a request for authorization to the Office with the following documents...(please see full details at <http://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/alerts-and-notices/romania-2.html>)



2. Information Corner

Please note:

- For information on **Services Fees** go to [Fees and forms of Payment](#)
- For a list of public holidays observed by the Embassy, please select [Holidays](#).
- **Emergencies:** In case of such an emergency outside these business hours, i.e. evenings, weekends or holidays, please call the Duty Officer at (+4) 021-200-3300.
- The American Citizen Services unit cannot answer inquiries related to visas for Romanian citizens, even if they involve an American citizen petitioner or sponsor. For information regarding visas, please follow this link: <http://romania.usembassy.gov/visas.html>
- **Security check:** All applicants must pass through security, which includes putting your personal belongings through an x-ray machine and walking through a metal detector. Due to tightened security policies, please do not bring iPods, iPads, PDAs, laptops, portable game devices, portable readers, etc. Cell phones and smart watches must be checked at the entrance. In order to not delay your appointment, we strongly encourage you to bring only what is needed for your business with us.
- **Consumer Alerts**
Please note that the IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels.

* If you get an unsolicited email that appears to be from the IRS, please report it by sending it to phishing@irs.gov.

* If you find a suspicious website that claims to be the IRS, please send the site's URL by email to phishing@irs.gov, using the subject line: suspicious website.

For more information on phishing scams, please see [Suspicious e-Mails and Identity Theft](#).

- **Emergency Resources:**
 - [Lost & Stolen Passports](#)
 - [Medical Emergencies](#)
 - [Victims of Crime](#)
 - [Arrest & Detention](#)
 - [Missing Persons & Contacting Loved Ones](#)
 - [Parental Child Abductions](#)
 - [Death Abroad](#)
 - [Natural Disasters](#)
 - [The State Department's Role in a Crisis](#)

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